(*b*) if so, what action the Government have taken in the matter?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir.

" (*b*) On the intervention of the Inspector of Factories, the management have since paid the arrears of wages due to the workers."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" As soon as the minimum wage rule was implemented, one driver by name Balan and two other important workers of the Union were dismissed by the management. May I know whether the Government will take action against this unlawful dismissal and for the reinstatement of the workers?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" As the hon. Member is aware, Government cannot take action on a question put by an hon. Member in this House. If this is brought to the notice of the officers concerned, certainly action will be taken under the Industrial Disputes Act."

[*Note*.—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—MOTION UNDER RULE 40 OF THE ASSEMBLY RULES *RE* PREVALENCE OF SMALLPOX IN MALABAR.

MR. SPEAKER :—" Sri K. P. Gopalan wants to call attention to a matter of urgent public importance under rule 40 of the Assembly Rules."

* SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, under rule 40 of the Assembly Rules, I wish to call the attention of the Hon. Minister for Health to the prevalence and spread of smallpox resulting in death throughout Malabar at the present moment and the inadequacy of the measures taken by the Government to
12 noon. check the same. From the reports that I have received and from enquiry and personal knowledge, I know that smallpox is widely prevalent throughout Malabar. In every taluk the disease is prevailing and deaths are taking place. In and around the Badagara Town in the Kurumbranad taluk, as far as I understand eighty deaths have taken place. In Chirakkal and Kottayam taluks in North Malabar and in the taluks of South Malabar, deaths are taking place. Sir, the measures taken by the Government to prevent the spread of the disease are very inadequate. The accommodation provided by the Government to the victims is also very meagre. Moreover, if a family is attacked by this disease, it is very difficult for it to carry on. The members of that family will find it difficult to eke out their livelihood. People are in such a miserable position that urgent relief is necessary. I want to know from the Hon. Minister what urgent measures the Government are going to take to give relief to the people and to prevent the further spread of the disease."

12th February 1955]

* THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Mr. Speaker, for the information of the hon. Members of this House, I shall place the report received yesterday from the Director of Public Health before this House. The following is the report received :—

'Kurumbranad taluk was the only badly affected taluk with smallpox in Malabar district. The infection in the other taluks such as Ponnani, Ernad, etc., is only sporadic.'

" Even in Kurumbranad taluk, Badagara Panchayat Board area was the worst affected with 178 attacks and 52 deaths up to the week ending 29th January 1955. The incidence of smallpox in Kurumbranad taluk as a whole is also now on the decline. Badagara Panchayat Board has also not reported any cases during the week ending 29th January 1955. The following statement gives the latest smallpox situation in the taluks :—

	Attacks.	Deaths.
Week ending 8th January 1955	41	11
,, 15th January 1955 ...	24	15
,, 22nd January 1955 ...	11	7
,, 29th January 1955 ...	7	5

" In addition to the range staff of two Health Inspectors, one Panchayat Sanitary Inspector and one Woman Health Assistant, seven additional Health Assistants and two Special Health Inspectors are now working in the taluk. The jeep of the Malariologist, Nilambur, is also now detailed for the movement of staff and equipment to the affected areas.

" In addition to treatment with medicine such as Aureomycine, Achromycine, Penicillin distilled water, carbolised vaseline, etc., an intensive vaccination drive was carried out to protect the entire population in Badagara Panchayat Board. In the Panchayat Board area alone, over 1,614 primary vaccinations and 26,153 re-vaccinations have so far been done. Eight hundred and fifty-five primary vaccinations and 11,678 re-vaccinations have also been done in the other affected villages during the month of January 1955. Mass vaccinations are still proceeding not only in the affected villages but also in other areas as a precautionary measure.

" The smallpox situation in Malabar district as a whole is given below :—

Name of taluk.	*Week ending 29th January 1955.*		
	Number of villages affected.	*Attacks.*	*Deaths.*
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Kurumbranad	7	7	5
Kottayam	1	1	0
Ernad	3	3	1
Palghat	1	1	0
Ponnani	1	12	1

" It will be seen from the above that the epidemic has been brought under control on account of the effective measures taken. As a measure of relief, 20 bags of rice were already distributed free to the poor affected persons. Indigent cases were also given free treatment. Skim milk powder has also been distributed. Free distribution of cloth and purchase of more quantities of medicine have since been ordered.

" The epidemic situation will be further watched and all necessary measures taken promptly to control the spread of the epidemic and treat the patients."

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" On a point of clarification, Sir."

MR. SPEAKER :—" This is not question-time. I can't allow a debate on this subject."

* SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" I do not want a debate, Sir. In the statement given by the Hon. Minister just now the name of Chirakkal taluk has not been mentioned. Is it a deliberate omission? Smallpox is virulent in that taluk."

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" No report has been received regarding prevalence of this disease in Chirakkal taluk."

SRI K. T. RAJU :—" சபையின் சென்ற கூட்டத்தில், இனிமேல் சபையில் கொண்டுவரப்போகும் மசோதாக்களை தமிழில் மொழிபெயர்க்கப் பட்டு அங்கத்தினர்களுக்குக் கொடுக்கப்படும் என்று கனம் மந்திரி அவர்கள் கூறினார்கள். அதன் பேரில் என்ன நடவடிக்கை எடுக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது என்று அறிய விரும்புகிறேன்."

III.—GOVERNMENT BILL.

THE MADRAS IRRIGATION (LEVY OF BETTERMENT CONTRIBUTION) BILL, 1954.

Clause 5.

MR. SPEAKER :—" The House would remember that clauses 3 and 4 of the Irrigation (Levy of Betterment Contribution) Bill have been accepted. I have allowed one day for the discussion of each of those clauses since both of them are important ones. I want to finish discussion of the remaining clauses to-day with the co-operation of the hon. Members. If necessary, we can even sit for half an hour more, i.e., till 2 p.m. Motion moved—

' That clause 5 do stand part of the Bill.' "

SRI P. S. KRISHNASWAMY AYYANGAR :—" Sir, I move the following amendments which stand in my name :—

' After *the words " in respect of any land "* occurring in line 2, insert *the words " and the outstanding interest on the contribution "*.